

**Claims**

1. A tray for sample vessels, comprising a plurality of orifices (2; 2.1) in matrix configuration, each of which accommodates one sample vessel, characterised in  
5 that each orifice (2; 2.1) comprises two positioning walls (10), such as straight walls, which define a positioning corner (11) forming a concave angle, such as a right angle, and in that the orifice is provided with a pushing means (13; 13.1), such as a flexible pushing means, which presses a sample vessel, which is inserted into the orifice towards the positioning corner.
- 10 2. A tray as defined in claim 1, in which each orifice is provided with a separate pushing means (13; 13.1).
- 15 3. A tray as defined in claim 1 or 2, in which the pushing means is a support wall (13; 31.1) having an upper edge, two lateral edges and a lower edge.
4. A tray as defined in claim 3, in which the tray comprises an upper surface (4) joining the upper edge of the support wall (13).
- 20 5. A tray as defined in claim 3 or 4, in which the orifice has at least one side wall (12) joining the lateral edge of the support wall.
6. A tray as defined in claim 5, in which the walls (10, 12, 13) of the orifice encircle the orifice peripherally.
- 25 7. A tray as defined in any of claims 3 to 6, in which the support wall (13) is inclined towards the centre of the orifice.
8. A tray as defined in any of the preceding claims, in which an outwardly directed  
30 positioning wall (10) is provided in the orifice at the edge of the matrix.
9. A tray as defined in claim 8, in which the outwardly directed positioning walls (10) of the orifices located at the edge join each other, forming a continuous periphery (14) around the matrix.

10. A tray as defined in any of the preceding claims, in which the orifices (2; 2.1) are disposed in arrays of four each, starting from the corner of the matrix, with the support means (13; 31.1) oriented towards the centre of the array.